

241349Z Oct 00

CONFIDENTIAL PTO3020

PAGE 01 HARARE 05969 241346Z  
ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AF-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 DODE-00  
DS-00 FBIE-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 VCE-00  
NSAE-00 OIC-02 SS-00 DSCC-00 NFAT-00 SAS-00 /002W  
-----961782 241347Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7436  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 005969

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CCA AND IO/UNP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/24/10  
TAGS: PREL ZI CU  
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE LIKELY TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF CUBA'S UN  
RESOLUTION AGAINST THE EMBARGO

REFTEL: SECSTATE 204623

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING FOR  
REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

11. (C) CHARGE DELIVERED REFTEL DEMARCHE ON OCTOBER 24 TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 05969 241346Z  
SENIOR MFA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND ACTING AMERICA'S  
DESK OFFICER ARTHUR CHINGONO IN THE ABSENCE OF MORE  
SENIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS. DRAWING ON REFTEL TALKING  
POINTS, CHARGE URGED ZIMBABWE TO OPPOSE, OR AT A  
MINIMUM, ABSTAIN ON CUBA'S UNGA RESOLUTION CONDEMNING  
THE U.S. BILATERAL EMBARGO ON CUBA. CHINGONO RESPONDED  
THAT ZIMBABWE VOTED FOR THE SAME RESOLUTION LAST YEAR IN  
HOPE OF MAINTAINING ITS GOOD RELATIONS WITH CUBA. EVEN  
IF ZIMBABWE VOTES IN FAVOR AGAIN THIS YEAR, ZIMBABWE  
HOPES THAT IT CAN USE ITS INFLUENCE TO CONVINCE CUBA TO  
RESUME A DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES, HE STATED.  
THE ZIMBABWEAN DIPLOMAT REPORTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD  
ASKED CUBA FOR ITS ASSESSMENT OF ITS U.S. RELATIONSHIP,  
AND CUBA RESPONDED THAT IT DETECTS NO MEANINGFUL CHANGE.

12. (C) CHARGE RESPONDED THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO  
IMPROVE RELATIONS WHEN CASTRO DOES NOT RECIPROCATES U.S.  
GESTURES, AND WORSE, INSULTS THE U.S. BY DERIDING ITS  
HUMANITARIAN CONCESSIONS TO CUBA. CHARGE ASKED CHINGONO  
HOW MUCH AUTHORITY ZIMBABWE'S PERMREP IN NEW YORK HAD IN  
VOTING ON THESE TYPES OF RESOLUTIONS. DEPENDING ON THE  
ISSUE, HE HAS A FAIR AMOUNT OF DISCRETION, CHINGONO  
REPLIED. ZIMBABWE WANTS TO AVOID MAKING THESE UNGA  
RESOLUTIONS A RITUAL, AND INTENDS TO RE-EVALUATE THE  
SITUATION IN CUBA EVERY YEAR, BUT OFTEN DOES NOT HAVE  
THE PERTINENT INFORMATION TO MAKE AN INFORMED VOTE.  
ZIMBABWE APPRECIATES ANY INFORMATION THE U.S. CAN  
PROVIDE, CHINGONO CONCLUDED.

13. (C) COMMENT: CHINGONO PUT A GOOD, DIPLOMATIC FACE  
ON WHAT IN ALL LIKELIHOOD WILL BE A ZIMBABWE VOTE IN  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HARARE 05969 241346Z  
FAVOR OF CUBA'S RESOLUTION. GIVEN PRESIDENT MUGABE'S  
DEMONSTRATED LACK OF CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
GENERAL, HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA HAS NEVER BEEN A FEATURE  
OF ZIMBABWEAN FOREIGN POLICY, AND CHINGONO EFFECTIVELY  
CONFIRMED THIS. THERE ARE TOO MANY STRONG TIES, AND  
PARALLELS, BETWEEN ZIMBABWE AND CUBA FOR ZIMBABWE TO  
ABSTAIN OR VOTE AGAINST ITS OLDEST ALLY IN THE AMERICAS.  
THERE ARE CURRENTLY ABOUT 100 LOW-COST DOCTORS IN  
ZIMBABWE FROM CUBA, AND PRESIDENT MUGABE LIKELY VIEWS  
CASTRO AS A FELLOW-IN-ARMS BESIEGED BY A HOSTILE WEST.  
MUGABE ALSO LIKELY SEES THIS VOTE AS A COST-FREE CHANCE  
TO POKE THE U.S. IN THE EYE OVER WHAT HE PERCEIVED WAS  
AN ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON ZIMBABWE WITH THE  
ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY ACT. END COMMENT.

IRVING

CONFIDENTIAL

>